

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to an Office Action mailed April 22, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein.

Claims 2-6 and 8-14 remain in the present application. Claims 1, 7, and 15-18 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2-6 and 8-14 stand allowed.

As part of this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 4, 8, and 11 to correct previously undetected informalities. The amendments to claims 4, 8, and 11 have not been made to overcome a statutory rejection and therefore do not limit the equivalence of any claim element under the Doctrine of Equivalence.

In the April 22, 2004 Office Action, claims 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,534,788 issued to Smith et al. Claims 16-18 have been canceled from the present application, thereby rendering the rejection of claims 16-18 moot.

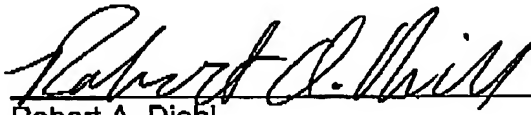
Given that the remaining claims 2-6 and 8-14 stand allowed, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the subject patent application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to our Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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